

## Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 /004 W

----- 121314

P R 091534Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6669

USCINCSO

GOV PANCANAL

UNCLAS PANAMA 0949

E.O. 11652: N/A

SECSTATE FOR ARA/PAF & PAN

USCINCSO FOR J2 & PAO

GOV PANCANAL FOR IO

MEDIA REACTION

1. PANAMA CITY. SEMI-INDEPENDENT LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA COMMENTS ON SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA IN ITS LEAD EDITORIAL OF FEBRUARY 9. A FREQUENT CRITIC OF THE SOVIET UNION, LA ESTRELLA UNDERLINES SOVIET FAILURES IN AFRICA AND ENDORSES THE U.S. STAND AGAINST SOVIET INTERVENTION.

2. ENTITLED "SOVIET CAUTION," THE EDITORIAL OPENS AS FOLLOWS:  
"IT'S NO SECRET THAT THE SOVIET ECONOMY CONTINUES IN DIFFICULTY, TO THE POINT OF HAVING OBLIGED THE KREMLIN TO SELL GREAT QUANTITIES OF GOLD ON THE WORLD MARKET, BECAUSE, IN REALITY, EXCEPT FOR FURS, LIQUORS AND ARMS, THEY HAVE HARDLY ANYTHING TO EXPORT."

3. LA ESTRELLA CONTINUES: "UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES AND FACED WITH THE URGENT NECESSITY TO CONTINUE BUYING GRAINS IN THE UNITED STATES--BECAUSE ITS HARVEST WAS AGAIN A FAILURE--AND THE U.S. DEMAND THAT IT STOP ITS OPEN INTER-  
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VENTION IN ANGOLA, THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAS BEGUN TO ACT

CAUTIOUSLY, DEMONSTRATING A CONCILIATORY POSITION ON THIS  
ISSUE."

4. ON THE QUESTION OF DETENTE, LA ESTRELLA CONTINUES: "IT'S  
EVIDENT THAT THE U.S. POSITION IS JUSTIFIED. ONE CANNOT  
CONTINUE TALKING ABOUT DETENTE AND AN INTERNATIONAL POLICY  
OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE, OF SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE  
NATIONS, OF NON-INTERVENTION AND RESPECT FOR 'IDEOLOGICAL  
PLURALITY,' WHILE MOSCOW OPENLY CONTINUES ITS INTERVENTIONIST  
POLICY IN ORDER TO GAIN ADDITIONAL 'ZONES OF INFLUENCE' AND  
TRIES TO SUBVERT THE ORDER OF THE WESTERN NATIONS." ITEM

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Action:** n/a  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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